



The Elusive Brown Note?

Physiological effects of low frequency weapons

Michael Coleman

Despite the lack of clinical observation, the brown note has (at least once) been known to produce physical effects on an unknowing audience. In 1997, at the South By Southwest Music Festival, Industrial Noise music artist Furnace demonstrated the use of their Resin Noise Cannon during a live performance. I was able to witness this event and speak with founding member of Furnace, DJ Resin, before the event to evaluate his sonic weapon. DJ Resin explained, "the Resin Noise Cannon is an infrasonic transducer which produces two distinct frequency ranges, each one sweeping 3 hertz. The first range sweeps between 2-5Hz at 166dB and the second range sweeps between 6-9Hz at 163 dB."

The Resin Noise Cannon was active for 35 minutes during the Furnace SXSW performance and I observed growing unrest amongst the crowd around the 15 minute mark. By the 30 minute mark, venue management began investigation into the malaise and eventually pulled the plug on Furnace. It has been claimed in newspaper reports that the venue completely emptied with soiled and nauseated showgoers, but I only observed a 50% decrease in audience size. The remaining attendees displayed signs of motor ataxia and confusion. I observed 10 cases of physical nausea inside the venue and another 20 outside. I did not observe any cases of "soiled" spectators. Perhaps Brown Note is not a fitting term for this phenomenon. Instead, I propose naming it the Yellow/Green Note.

